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PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Flashback

PUBLISHED BY WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TABLE OF CONTENTS
August 1989

Prairie Grove Phone Co. 1
Window on the Frontier 7
More Ladies of Goshen 22
Lost Blacks 25
Ahnentafel Charts 29
Queries 32
Cane Hill, 1859 36
Ozarks Spring Time 38
The Road of Life 40

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PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Flashback

PUBLISHED BY WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701

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FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

THE PRAIRIE GROVE TELEPHONE COMPANY

by Susan Parks

View of Central Office of Prairie Grove 'Phone Co., 1988.

Since its incorporation on October 4, 1906, the Prairie Grove Telephone Company has remained family-owned and operated to the present. Throughout these years, the Telephone Company has served much of west Washington County, providing efficient and modern service to its subscribers. The central office is located in Prairie Grove (population 1800) with four smaller offices in Lincoln, Farmington, Morrow and Strickler.

Telephone service in the Prairie Grove area was begun in 1888 by Dr. E.G. McCormick, who strung a wire from his office to his brother William's pharmacy. Later that year Dr. McCormick, with the help of a Dr. Gladson and Jim McIlroy, established a line that ran from Fayetteville to Prairie Grove. This telephone line was reportedly one of the longest in the state of Arkansas at the time.[1]

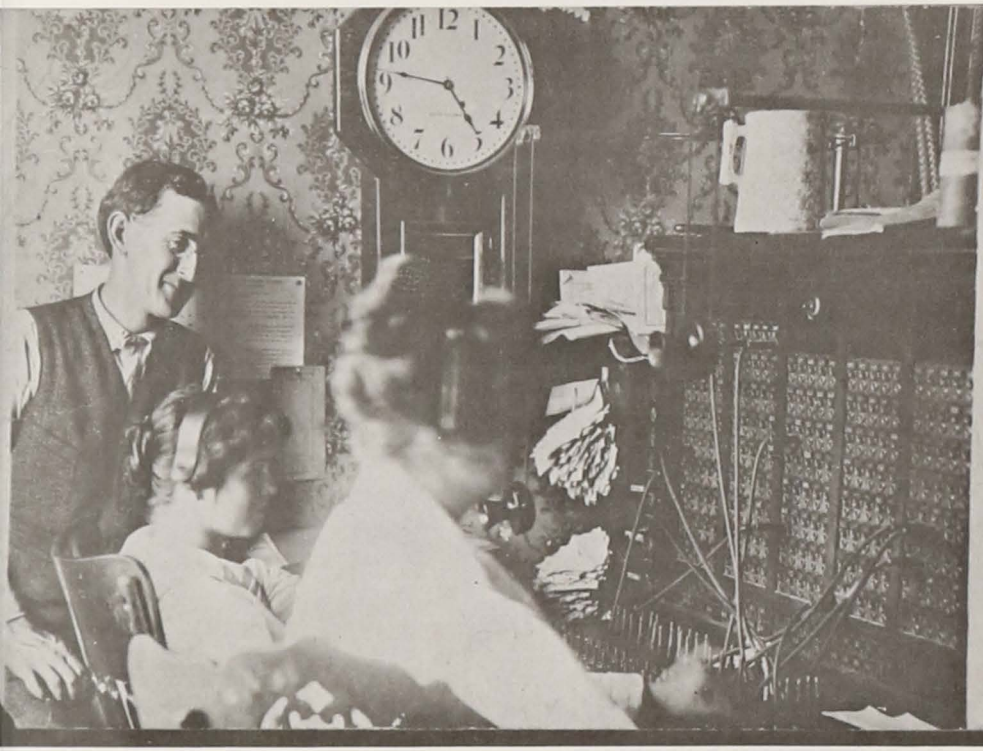
In 1906, Dr. E.G. McCormick, William McCormick, and M.M. Collier, a pharmacist in Prairie Grove who later moved to Fayetteville, incorporated the Prairie Grove Telephone Company. At this time, the new utility was one of two in the rural town. Their competitor, the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, was later bought out by the Prairie Grove Telephone stockholders.

One of the Telephone Company's first investments was to purchase a switchboard to direct the increasing number of calls. The central office was located in a small room on the second floor of a main street building where a bundle of telephone wires came in through the wall. Once, an operator ventured near the wires to inspect what she thought was a new cable. Coming closer, the startled operator discovered a large black snake.[2]

One year later, James C. Parks, Dr. McCormick's son-in-law, began working first as a switchboard operator, then became general manager and later president of the Prairie Grove Telephone Company. Due to Dr. McCormick's and Mr. Collier's own private businesses, Jim Parks operated the Telephone Company until his death in 1958.

During Parks' administration of the Telephone Company, many miles of lines were strung and poles erected. However, with only a few employees, maintenance work was often temporary. For example, one way of fixing poles required the use of a "pike," or pole that had one end sharpened to a point. The "pike"would be placed against a broken pole, sharpened side up, to prop up the damaged pole until it could be replaced. And, especially along stretches of farmland, brush kept telephone lines off the ground when they fell from rotten crossarms.

As time passed, the Telephone Company's customers grew to several hundred. During the Depression, however, that number rapidly declined. Many customers returned their magneto (crank-style wall phones) until the telephones were lined up on either side of the hallway in the main office.[3] Jim Parks never disconnected a phone for non-payment, even after the Depression years had ended. Phone bills were often paid with eggs, vegetables and an occasional cow. Parks even co-signed a bank note that



James C. Parks with unidentified switchbaord operators about 1920.

allowed a customer to improve his farm, along with paying his phone bill.

During World War II, telephone service remained limited to a few hundred customers, as people concentrated on the more important issues of rationing and supporting their families. Yet after the war, demand for service began to increase. At this time, Jim Parks' twin sons, Barry and Donald, joined the Telephone Company, installing telephones, digging postholes, and stringing wire. Like all beginners, the two young men learned the trade by making mistakes. Barry Parks recalled installing a phone in what he though was the right house: "The fellow who got it only made one call, and that was to us, telling us to get that damn thing out of his house." And disconnecting the wrong phone: "There was a lady right there while I was doing it. She told me later that I looked like I knew what I

was doing, so she didn't interrupt."[4] The youngest of Jim Parks' sons, Joe, also worked for the Telphone Company from 1947 to 1951, when at that time he accepted a position at the Prairie Grove post office.

One of the first major problems the Telephone Company encountered was an ice storm in January, 1949. Out of almost 2,000 telephones about eighty-five remained in service. Practically all phone lines were down after three days of freezing rain, sleet, and snow. The wires were coated with layers of ice approximately five or six inches in diameter. With only three employees who worked the outside plant, the Telephone Company began hiring anyone they could find. "We even hired the town wino," Barry Parks stated. "Matter of fact, as I recall, that's when we found out he was a wino; nobody had ever seen him sober before."[5] Customers helped by working for nothing and some even made an advance payment on their bills to finance repairs. It took six weeks, Donald Parks remembered, to bring everything back to working order.

In an effort to restore telphone service, volunteers Berry Cone, Raymond Brockman, Joe Bland, and Wilford Thompson assisted with repairing downed lines and poles. Thompson, then a teller at the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Prairie Grove, helped Jim Parks with the long distance lines until the electricity was restored and the bank reopened. His experience as a temporary telephone repairman was sometimes frustrating, as Thompson recently remembered: "We had the long distance lines working again, and then we found out the operator in Fayetteville couldn't be reached. So Mr. Parks and I jumped into his old car and started driving towards Fayetteville. We got up to Farmington, at the corner where Llewelyn's is now, to find that someone had driven through with a truck or large vehicle leaving the line torn down."

Another challenge for the Telephone Company appeared in the late 1960's, when a feasibility study was released which indicated the chances of small, rural telephone companies converting from multiple-party lines

The Telephone Company's central office was located upstairs in Prairie Grove's tallest building. Notice all the telephone wires entering the window. Photograph taken in 1953.

to single-party service. "The study said small companies couldn't do it," recalled Barry Parks. "We decided to go ahead anyway."[6]

Like most utilities their size, Prairie Grove had many customers on the multiple-service, or "party" lines. The majority of their customers were in favor of receiving a private line and helped the Telephone Company any way they could. Donald Parks remembered, "Our customers realized that we had to keep the cost of the project down. If we didn't, it would show up in their rates. As a result, we didn't have to pay a penny for right-of-way. I'd guess, we went over the property of between 700 and 800 land owners. We even had people living on opposite sides of the road arguing who was going to get to give us their right-of-way."[7] This project was completed in 1979, marking Prairie Grove as the first telephone company in the state to provide all private lines to their customers in a multi-exchange company.

Also in 1979, the Prairie Grove Telephone Company

converted to the Northern Telecom DMS-10 digital equipment from the older Stromberg XY Central Office Switch, which allowed customers the convenience of touch-tone and the benefits of call-waiting, call forwarding, three-way calling, etc. The Company now has approximately 6,000 customers and maintains two standard rates; $5.91 for one-party residential service and $11.91 for one-party business service. Twenty-six people are employed for outside the plant and central-office maintenance.

Donald Parks' son, David, began working for the Telephone Company in 1980 and is now its President. Barry, who was President beginning in 1958, is now Vice-President, with Donald as General Manager. From its inception in 1888, the Prairie Grove Telephone Company has remained in the McCormick and Parks families. Today it is the largest family-owned and operated telephone company in Arkansas, and continues with its policy of keeping the customer's well-being a first priority.

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Endnotes

[1]Clifton Paisley, "Dr. E.G. McCormick Has Seen Prairie Grove Advance in Medical Facilities," *The Enterprise*, July 28, 1938, p. 3.

[2]Mike Trimble, "Company Keeps Watch Over Its Telephonists," *Arkansas Gazette*, September 6, 1981, p. 1F.

[3]Interview with Donald Parks, June 26, 1987.

[4]"Company Keeps Watch Over Its Telephonists," p. 7F.

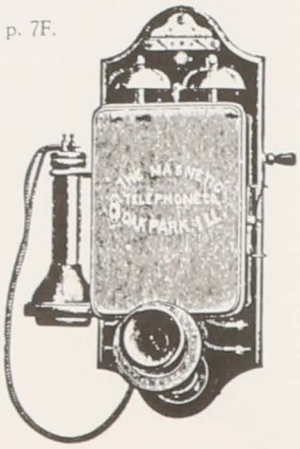
[5]Ibid.

[6]Ibid.

[7]Ibid.

Life is Ten Percent
What You Make it,

and Ninety Percent
How You Take it.



1840~1862

WINDOW ON THE FRONTIER

The Early Newspapers of Washington County, Arkansas

by Kim Allen Scott

Chapter V
The Arkansian and The Democrat

The critical years prior to the Civil War found the newspapers of Washington County in a state of transition. Improvements in communication and transportation facilities, such as the establishment of the Butterfield Overland Stage Company in 1858, and the coming of the telegraph to Fayetteville in 1860, allowed journalists to bring a timeliness to their publications that had been impossible during the early years of settlement. A steady increase of population and expansion of Washington County's economy made the editors take note of local events and present them with more regularity than the early newspapermen. With the increase of potential readers came another new development: the establishment of two newspapers competing for the hearts and minds of Fayetteville and Northwest Arkansas.

But in spite of the steady progression of Washington County's newspapers toward a product more recognizable as modern journalism, the publications still reflected many traits that were common to the frontier, Fayetteville's newspapermen in 1860 still found themselves scrambling for paper and supplies much as had their pioneer predecessors. The excitement over the national political crises of secession crowded local news reporting frequently to the point of exclusion. Finally, the arrival of the war itself to the peaceful hills of Northwest Arkansas halted the area's growth and plunged Washington County's development back to conditions every bit as primitive as those faced by the first settlers of the 1820s.

Fayetteville was a progressive, growing town of close to 960 people in 1859, making it one of the largest urban centers in Northwest Arkansas.[1] It had surpassed Washington County's other major town, Cane Hill, in population and had managed to equal it in educational facilities with the establishment of Arkansas College within the precincts of the village. As the county seat, Fayetteville enjoyed the benefits of an established administrative center and took the full step of municipal organization in April, 1859, when the city elected its first mayor and council.[2]

Commercial development was rapidly altering the border community from its pioneer origins. At least seven blacksmiths and three cabinetmakers competed for business in 1859, and there were several merchants and grocers from which to choose around the busy town square.[3] Enterprising settlers had harnessed the many streams and rivulets in the surrounding countryside to provide a number of conveniently located grist mills for the processing of grain. Just one of these produced flour and cornmeal annually worth $43,000.[4] Another mill located near the square was powered by steam engine.

As promising a picture as Fayetteville and Washington County made in 1859, events in the United States at large soon would darken the lives of all the inhabitants of the peaceful Ozark region. Abolitionist agitation and southern extremism were just two of the many factors pushing the political crisis over slavery to the breaking point, and Many southern state politicians were discussing the possibility of protecting their rights by withdrawing from the Union. The Democratic party was starting to split from the unceasing pressure of the slavery question, while deeply rooted fears within southern hearts regarding slave insurrection soon would be heightened by the grim spectre of John Brown at Harper's Ferry. Responsible, reliable reporting of events, both local and national, were sorely needed in Fayetteville, but the town had enjoyed no local newspaper since the *South-West Independent* had ceased publication in 1856.

In 1859 James R. Pettigrew and Elias Cornelius Boudinot, two young Democratic activists in Fayetteville, determined to rectify this situation. They were practicing attorneys, and although from different ethnic backgrounds, they shared both an interest in establishing a newspaper and a complete lack of experience in that line of work.

Boudinot was the son of a prominent Cherokee leader, Elias Boudinot, who in the 1830s edited the Indian nation's first newspaper, the *Cherokee Phoenix*, in New Echota, Georgia. Born in 1835, Elias C. was only a toddler when his family moved to Indian Territory with part of his people. His father was assassinated by members of the Ross faction of the Cherokee shortly after arriving in the new homeland, so the possibility of his remembering his father's newspaper office seems remote. Stand Watie, Elias' uncle, sent the boy east with his stepmother and siblings to escape further violence, and the outcasts finally settled in Manchester, Vermont. There Elias received a good education as a civil engineer and worked briefly for the railroad. Life in the east did not suit Boudinot and he returned west in 1853, landing finally in Fayetteville and studying in the law office of Alfred McIlroy Wilson. In 1856 he was admitted to the bar and spent the next three years gaining a reputation as an able barrister and a loyal Democrat.[5]

James R. Pettigrew had been a Fayetteville resident most of his life, having attended the local common school and being graduated from Arkansas College in the mid-1850s. His father was elected Sheriff of Washington County in 1852,[6] and James was appointed Deputy Sheriff on June 9, 1856, while in the process of gaining his own credentials as an attorney.[7] On April 20, 1857, Pettigrew bought a complete printing outfit from William E. Smith, the printer who had worked for William Quesenbury's *South-West Independent*. The *Independent* had folded the year before and Smith had fallen on hard times. Pettigrew had managed to pick up the holdings of the unemployed printer for $392.37, but the equipment was to remain idle for another two years.[8]

In the early months of 1859, Pettigrew and Boudinot formed a partnerhsip and began laying plans for a newspaper in Fayetteville. Boudinot likely held a more active interest in editing than Pettigrew, who was able to provide the bulk of the financial backing for the enterprise.[9] They planned a political sheet, and although their ambition was probably to advance their own careers, they realized they would need to hire the skills of an experienced newspaperman to operate the press and type Pettigrew had purchased so cheaply. We cannot know which man eventually approached William E. Smith with a proposition of employment, nor can we assess the printer's feelings about drawing a wage for working with what was once his own equipment. All that is certain is that Smith agreed to the arrangement and the project was underway.

The attorneys located some office space on the Fayetteville square and with Smith's help organized the business during February, 1859. Departing from the custom of earlier Washington County newspapers, Pettigrew and Boudinot kept the idea quiet and decided to issue the newspaper without even distributing a prospectus or organizing a subscription list.

On March 5, 1859, Smith printed two hundred and fifty copies of the *Arkansian* and the editors sent them out to everyone in Washington County who seemed a likely patron. One can only imagine the reaction of Pettigrew and Boudinot when nearly one hundred and twenty five copies were returned to their office marked "rejected."[10] Apparently residents who found the unsolicited newspaper in their mail promptly returned it for fear they would be charged for the weekly journal until they paid for each copy received. One of the Pettigrew's friends pronounced the experiment a "complete fizzle,"[11] but the next Saturday the *Arkansian* again appeared.

The fledging editors learned a lot about the newspaper business from their printer. Smith had more than thirty years of experience and he probably advised the lawyers on such matters as the extending of credit and the pricing of job work. Pettigrew and Boudinot announced that all

job work must be paid for in advance, but recognizing that old habits die hard, they reverted to the early practice of allowing advertisements and subscriptions on credit with the threat of continuing both, if not paid, in order to run up the debt.[12] They also recognized the importance of public printing to the success of other pioneer publishers. The *Arkansian* sought and gained the state contract for estray notices for the year 1860 from Arkansas legislature.[13]

The *Arkansian* rebounded quickly from the disaster of the first issue, and once again the isolated border community had a gathering place for the exchange of information. By May the editors were reprimanding the news-hungry citizens of Fayetteville for pestering the office for papers before the day of publication.[14] Local merchants stepped forward to place advertisements in the ad columns and to bribe the journalists quietly with treats for a "puff" in the news section. A local confectioner named Henry discovered the *Arkansian*'s devil had a sweet tooth, and after treating the office to refreshments was gratified to note his generosity rewarded by a nod in the columns.[15]

One of the reasons for the *Arkansian*'s success after its initial failure was the political turmoil raging within the state. David Yancey Thomas has provided an excellent study of the events leading up to the Civil War in Arkansas.[16] According to Thomas, the state Democratic party was more or less united in matters of national policy but was bitterly divided over the domination of the Arkansas party's leadership by the "Johnson Dynasty." The "Dynasty" was the name given a group of interrelated families that had controlled the Arkansas Democratic party since the territorial era. Thomas C. Hindman, an ambitious politician from Helena, led the opposition to the Johnson Dynasty, and was elected to Congress in 1858 from the district of Northern Arkansas, but he tried to follow up his victory by challenging William K. Sebastian for his seat in the United States Senate. Sebastian, a member of the Dynasty, was elected by the state legislature in 1858 for another term in the Senate beginning March 4, 1859, but Hindman would not accept the rebuff quietly. He went on

a speaking tour of the northern counties of his district to denounce the political maneuvering of Sebastian and the rest of the Dynasty. Among the many old-line Democrats Hindman managed to antagonize with his speeches was Elias Boudinot.

Boudinot had been an early admirer of Hindman and had written a confidential letter to the congressman in 1856 when Hindman had waged his initial campaign in the district. During the intervening years, however, Boudinot allied himself with the mainstream Democrats and supported the Dynasty's leadership, so he was naturally mortified when Hindman read his early letter at a public meeting in Fayetteville on October 1, 1859. The embarrassed editor countered by reprinting the letter, along with a lengthy explanation, in the October 14 issue of the *Arkansian*.

Hindman was aided in his crusade by the support of two newspapers he controlled, the *States Rights Democrat* of Helena and the *Old Line Democrat* of Little Rock. The editor of the *States Rights Democrat* was a Tennessean, S.S. Calhoon. Calhoon was much less moderate in his tone than his employer and his violent rhetoric was directed unsparingly against the person of Boudinot. Boudinot, who spoke against Hindman whenever possible, was labeled a "half-breed alien" by Calhoon, implying that the Cherokee editor was not a citizen of the United States by reason of his race.[17] Boudinot countered in language just as severe, calling Calhoon an "ignoramus" on one occasion and a "liar and a coward" on another.[18] When the Fayetteville editor followed up his ascerbic penwork with speeches at Democratic gatherings in other Northwest Arkansas counties, the *Arkansian* was rewarded with such rapid growth of subscriptions that it staggered printer William Smith into admitting that "we are too full for comment."[19] Frederick Allsopp has claimed the circulation of the paper grew to 2000[20], and although the figure cannot be substantiated, Boudinot himself proudly proclaimed 178 new patrons during the month of October, 1859, alone. The *35th Parallel*, a Fort Smith newspaper, announced in its October 19, 1960, issue that its circulation

was 1,316, but the *Arkansian* positively claimed the largest circulation of any paper in the region.

Although the outpouring of "personal journalism" that marked the content of the *Arkansian* associates it with journalism in the frontier state of development, the typographic layout of the sheet shows a progression toward the modern newspaper. Advertisements were somewhat sophisticated in the *Arkansian*, and its editors resorted to some very clever tricks to gain attention. Starting on March 16, 1860, the Aetna Life and Casualty Company headed their running notice with a striking cut of the corporation's logo. William McIlroy, a wealthy Fayetteville merchant, took advantage of the Boudinot-Hindman excitement by ordering Hindman's name set in bold face type above a dun notice he placed in the *Arkansian* for no other reason than to get the advertisement read.[21] The first multi-tiered headline ever seen in a Fayetteville newspaper appeared in the *Arkansian* to call attention to a steamboat explosion, and columns were routinely headed with bold type thereafter.[22]

Another departure from its frontier predecessors was the *Arkansian*'s use of local news notes on a regular basis. In this regular reporting of Fayetteville happenings, the newspaper began to move towards an active role in social change in the community. Occasionally the city news was no more than another expression of the personal journalism of the earlier press, such as an open letter to an otherwise anonymous "Jane" advising the young woman that her efforts to attract the eye of her beaux had also gained the editor's attention, but there were also articles pleading with citizens to plant more shade trees and otherwise to improve the town.[23] For the most part the local reporting was straight-forward and matter-of-fact. The paper reported the capture of some runaway slaves near Fayetteville on July 2, 1859, in a story remarkable for its restraint and objectivity in light of the current anti-abolitionist hysteria. The national political crisis eventually dominated the columns of the *Arkansian*, however, and by crowding out local reports it severely limited the paper's

role as a catalyst for social change.

William E. Smith and his son James remained the foreman and devil of the *Arkansian* printing office for its entire tenure in Fayetteville. Smith's long experience in newspapering allowed Pettigrew and Boudinot to act as editors in the modern sense of the word, preparing copy for the printer and following the lines in the ledger book rather than in the composing stick. When Pettigrew announced his resignation on February 24, 1860, to devote himself to his law practice full time, the newspaper announced the sole proprietorship of Boudinot as a simple business transaction. With Smith ably performing the mechanical functions of the enterprise, the *Arkansian* became a smoothly run operation able to weather a major shift such as a change in ownership without the loss of either advertising or public confidence in the sheet.

Boudinot did not remain at the helm of the *Arkansian* for long. The young lawyer had other ambitions that called him to Little Rock in the spring of 1860 when the Dynasty invited him to edit Richard Henry Johnson's *True Democrat* while Johnson ran for governor.[24] Although Boudinot was about to lay down the editor's quill in Fayetteville, he was not going to sell the *Arkansian* now that the Hindman brouhaha had increased the circulation so profitably. He explained his new role as an owner rather than an editor in an "explanatory":

> In my valedictory last week, I omitted to mention that I had provided for the continuance of the *Arkansian* and that my friends would see to the editorials, etc., until some permanent arrangement is made. In that respect my responsibilities remain with the *Arkansian*. My duties as an editor simply have ceased.[25]

For a while no one edited the *Arkansian* full time, and William Smith stepped into the breach to assume most of the editor's duties. Although he proclaimed himself "publisher" in the June 16, 1860, edition, it is clear Smith had not bought the business. He was still the printer, rather than the owner of the *Arkansian* even if he was increasingly donning the editor's hat.[26] William Quesen-

bury, former proprietor of Fayetteville's *South-West Independent*, assisted as an informal editor during this time as he had earlier in 1860.[27]

Boarding at William Smith's house the summer of 1860 were two printers, Thomas J. Hines and Elias B. Moore.[28] Both were probably employed at the *Arkansian* office with Moore's two brothers, James B. and William B. Moore. Smith was probably satisfied with the workmanship of Hines and Moore, but he could not have known that both the workers he sheltered under his roof would become newspaper owners before the year was out.

Elias Moore had moved to Fayetteville in 1858 with his father's family. William Ward Moore was a tailor and entrepreneur who supported his large family by plying his trade and operating a sawmill. In 1860, Elias and James, the oldest boys of the nine Moore children, decided to purchase and establish their own newspaper.

As with the earlier newspapers of Washington County, the historical record of the Fayetteville *Democrat* has been confused by Frederick Allsopp's *History of the Arkansas Press*. Allsopp claims, for instance, that Elias and William B. Moore bought out a newspaper in Bentonville, Arkansas, and moved the equipment to Fayetteville to start their own paper.[29] In another chapter, Allsopp, probably relying on Goodspeed's *History of Washington County*, gives the honors of establishing the *Democrat* to William Ward Moore, the boys' father.[30] Elias and James most likely bought the business, since William B. was only fifteen at the time and still attending school, while William Ward was actively soliciting business for his trade as a tailor.[31]

Even the birthdate of the Fayetteville *Democrat* is unclear. Allsopp claims the paper's first issue appeared on August 10, 1860, while Thomas Rothrock, counting the weeks backward from the only extant copy of the *Democrat*, opted for July 26, 1860.[32] The first notice the *Arkansian* took of a rival paper in Fayetteville was in its June 30, 1860, issue.

Most of the confusion over the nature and ownership of the Fayetteville *Democrat* stems from the fact that only one copy has survived for contemporary analysis: number 45,

dated May 30, 1861. Fortunately, the prospectus of the paper was printed in this issue to give an indication of how it differed from the *Arkansian*, which was also ostensibly a Democratic paper. Of their newspaper the Moores stated:

> In politics it will be Democratic. It will faithfully and zealously support the principles and policy of the National Democratic Party....As the convention system is an expedient for the discipline and organization of the forces of the party, the *Democrat* will sustain its usage.[33]

In their proclamation the Moores could have been making two statements: one to Democrats like Boudinot who had criticized the county convention manipulations of Hindman, and another to the southern wing of the national party. The Democratic party in 1860 split over the question of slavery and states rights, resulting in a northern faction backing the candidacy of Stephen A. Douglas and a southern faction advocating John C. Breckinridge for President. The possibility that the *Democrat* intended to back Douglas with its prospectus statement is supported by the bolts hurled at it by the *Arkansian* during the fall, 1860, campaign.

The divergent views held by the two newspapers mirrored the ambivalence of their Washington County readership. Though most property owners were frightened by the Republicans and the abolitionist appearance of Lincoln's candidacy, very few were ardent secessionists. Most articles in the *Arkansian* during the summer of 1860 reflected a sincere hope that somehow a compromise over the slavery issue could be reached on the national level, a view probably shared by the majority of its readership. In the presidential election later that fall, Washington County voters would cast 1,028 votes for Breckinridge, 881 for John Bell (a third party candidate who stressed the Union and adherence to the Consititution), and 244 for Douglas.[34] These results should be interpreted as an anti-Lincoln vote more than a prosecession mandate. Even though Breckinridge was the candidate the radical secessionists of Arkansas championed, Bell and Douglas, who were known to stand for the Union, were the combined

choice of the majority of Washington County's voters.

With the political pot beginning to boil and the *Arkansian*'s bailiwick invaded, Elias Boudinot prevailed on Josiah W. Washbourne to edit the sheet. Boudinot's choice would not have been an excellent one had Washbourne been able to devote himslef full time to the job. The new editor started out with a great deal of energy in matters financial, pleading with the patrons of the newspaper to settle up their debts so the *Arkansian* could take full advantage of Fayetteville's new telegraph office. Even during the crucial pre-election weeks, Washbourne continued to dun his patrons, sharing column space between editorials concerning Breckinridge with reminders that the "hands" in the *Arkansian* office were "obliged to eat."[35]

If Washbourne was in charge of all the *Arkansian*'s business affairs, his most serious failing was in maintaining adequate supplies for his printers. Almost inexcusable in the face of fresh local competition and the national political race of the century, the *Arkansian* ran out of newsprint in October, 1860. No paper was issued on October 11, and even though Washbourne paid exorbitant rates to the Butterfield Overland Stage Company to express in a few reams, the October 18 issue was printed short of the full subscription number.[36]

By November, 1860, Elias Boudinot was ready to liquidate his holdings in the *Arkansian*. If William Smith had any plans once again to own the establishment where he had labored for so long, he was prepared to wait before taking any action. It was Thomas J. Hines, the other printer boarding with Smith, who bought the newspaper from Boudinot on November 17, 1860.[37] Smith found himself in the position of having to work for his former subordinate. J. W. Washbourne was retained in the editor's chair, but he must have found the prospect of working under Hines unpalatable, for he spent most of the balance of his employment at the *Arkansian* out of town.

Some rather dull issues followed the Hines takeover, and it must be said to the printer's credit that he freely admitted his shortcomings as an editor.[38] Hines set some of the

type himself during his tenure as editor, evidence that with the Moore brothers working on their own paper Hines was unable to replace himself after the takeover. His health failed in early December, and just when the secession hysteria was peaking in the lower southern states, the *Arkansian* was again almost the sole responsibility of William E. Smith. In an unusual public confession, Smith announced:

> This office is in trouble. The editor is absent, the publisher is sick, the foreman has both hands full and no time to write, events of dire importance are transpiring all over the land....all these, with many other horrors are transpiring with only the printer and his ink to bear the heavy portion of public distress which falls upon this office.[39]

The *Arkansian* needed stable leadership badly. The *Democrat* could not have been sitting idly by during the personnel turnovers of its neighbor, and it is probable that the Moores benefited from the *Arkansian*'s distresses. Smith decided to meet the challenge head-on, and somehow he gathered enough money in January, 1861, to purchase the *Arkansian* from Hines. After a decade in Fayetteville, and at least six years of working on other men's newspapers, the printer was again owner of his own establishment.

Among the changes that Smith introduced were the terms of subscription . He abandoned once and for all the pioneer practice of endless credit for newspaper subscriptions and demanded two dollars a year for the *Arkansian* — in advance. In another departure from the customers of frontier journalism, the printing office was moved to the west side of the town square, above Barnard's Drug Store, where the new editor announced that "idlers and gossipmongers" would be unwelcome.[40] With the coming of the telegraph to Fayetteville on July 1860, the *Arkansian* office had largely been replaced as a primary gathering place for information. William Baxter, president of Arkansas College, recalled going to the telegraph office rather than the *Arkansian* sanctum to receive first intelligence of Lincoln's

inaugural address, and he described citizens on another occasion gathering at the telegraphers to argue political questions.[41] Smith had always cast a somewhat jaundiced eye on loungers in the printing office anyway. As early as April 16, 1859, he had remarked: "Why is a loafer in a printing office like a shade tree? Because we are glad when he leaves." Now that he again controlled office policy, the printer was determined to change the longstanding custom of indulging visitors.

Smith gradually gained control of the *Arkansian* business and proved to be a capable editor. In explaining his arrangements for advertisements, he gave evidence that his parting with Hines had not been a cordial one:

> As for Mr. Hines and his business, except in two instances of little import, whether paid for or not, we shall have nothing to do, nor shall we finish any of his contracts for advertising, unless the parties advertising contract with us to that effect. See to it.[42]

Smith's relations with the *Democrat* were cordial enough, and when the Moores came out in support of Arkansas remaining in the Union, the *Arkansian* was notably moderate in chiding its rival. Again, the divergent course taken by the two newspapers mirrored the ambivalence of their community.

When the voters of Washington County had gone to the polls on February 18, 1861, to decide on a state convention over the question of secession, they voted against the proposal by a majority of 974.[43] They chose Judge David Walker, a Unionist, to represent them in Little Rock, and when the convention met on March 4, the Unionists elected Walker President by a vote of forty to thirty-five. During the course of the convention, the Unionists were able to forestall the secessionists by calling for a statewide referendum in August to decide on "secession" or "cooperation" with the border slave states in trying to achieve a sectional compromise. Smith had supported Walker's position initially, and although he eventually endorsed Arkansas secession in the early spring of 1861, he

could not have forgotten the "amen" he added to the *St. Louis Republican*'s greeting the previous summer, "May the Union be preserved."[44]

The last surviving issue of the *Arkansian*, dated March 15, 1861, contained the inaugural address of both Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln printed side by side on the last page. Allsopp claims that the *Arkansian* closed shop shortly thereafter, but actually William Smith continued to publish the newspaper until February, 1862.[45] The fact that no later copies have been discovered is probably evidence of a smaller press run. Smith may have dropped the "deadbeats" from his subscription list, and newsprint would become a scarce commodity.

The guns at Fort Sumter of April 12, 1861, shattered all hopes for a compromise with the Lincoln administration. The Arkansas State Convention, which had adjourned on March 21, reconvened to consider the latest development in the national sectional crisis. On May 6, 1861, the delegates voted to leave the Union and Fayetteville became one of the northernmost cities on the Confederate frontier. Troops were recruited from its citizens for both sides, and while they had formerly cried for moderation, the editors of the *Democrat* now embraced the Southern cause. Elias and James Moore enlisted in a Confederate Army sometime in June, 1861, and left sixteen-year-old William and his father in charge of the printing office. The tailor was instructed by his departing sons to accept no more subscriptions on credit and to follow the *Arkansian's* lead in dropping freeloaders from the subscription list the at the end of the volume.[46] Newsprint was becoming too valuable to squander on non-paying patrons. It is not known how long the father and son managed to keep the *Democrat* going. William Baxter reported that "newspapers ceased" after the Confederate Army occuped the town, and later sources mention only the *Arkansian* as the town's newspaper.[47]

[1]National Archives Microfilm Publications, *Population Schedules of the 8th Census of the United States, 1860*, (Washington, 1967) Washington County, Arkansas, p. 160.
[2]*Arkansian*, April 9, 1859, p. 2.
[3]United States Census Office, *Arkansas Products of Industry Census, 1860*, n.p.

[4]Ibid.

[5]John D. Adams, *Elias Cornelius Boudinot*, (Chicago: Rand McNally Co., 1890), P. 17; see also Edward E. Dale, "Arkansas and the Cherokees", *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 8, (1949) 103-104.

[6]Goodspeed Publishing Company, *History of Benton, Washington, Carroll, Madison, Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas*, (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing, 1889), p. 169.

[7]Washington County Miscellaneous Records Book, p. 198.

[8]Washington County Circuit Court Book K, p. 318.

[9]Pettigrew was only associated with the *Arkansian* for a year, and when he returned to newspapering in the decades after the Civil War, it was more in the role of an investor than an editor. See Allsopp, *History of the Arkansas Press*, 456-465.

[10]*Arkansian*, February 24, 1860, p. 2.

[11]Ibid.

[12]*Arkansian*, March 5, 1859, p. 1.

[13]*Arkansian*, January 27, 1860, p. 3.

[14]*Arkansian*,May 28, 1859, p. 3.

[15]*Arkansian*, June 11, 1859, p. 3.

[16]David Y. Thomas, *Arkansas in War and Reconstruction*, (Little Rock: Central Printing Co., 1926).

[17]*States Rights Democrat*, November 29, 1959.

[18]*Arkansian*, February 24, 1860.

[19]*Arkansian*, October 14, 1860.

[20]Frederick W. Allsopp, *History of the Arkansas Press for a Hundred Years and More*, (Little Rock: Parke-Harper Publishers, 1922), p. 463.

[21]*Arkansian*, February 10, 1860.

[22]*Arkansian*, May 14, 1859.

[23]*Arkansian*, April 16, 1859.

[24]Dale, p. 104.

[25]*Arkansian*, May 18, 1860.

[26]*Arkansian*, June 16, 1860. In an unusual public notice, Smith reported that his hand suffered from a severe case of catarrh and apologized for delaying some job work.

[27]*Arkansian*, March 30, 1860; *U.S. Census*, 1860, Arkansas, p. 147. Quesenbury answered the occupational query of the survey dated July 16, 1860, as an "editor."

[28]*U.S. Census*, 1860, Arkansas, p. 143.

[29]Allsopp, *History of the Arkansas Press*, p. 62.

[30]Ibid., p. 463.

[31]*U.S. Census*, 1860, Arkansas, p. 144; *Arkansian*, January 20, 1860.

[32]Allsopp, *History of the Arkansas Press*, p. 463; Thomas Rothrock, "A History of the Washington County Press (from Genesis to 1965)," *Flashback* 16, (February, 1966): 1.

[33]*Democrat*, May 30, 1861

[34]*Arkansas Gazette*, December 8, 1860.

[35]*Arkansian*, September 14, 1860.

[36]*Arkansian*, October 18, 1860.

[37]*Arkansian*, November 17, 1860.

[38]*November 24, 1860.*

[39]*Arkansian*, December 8, 1960.

[40]*Arkansian*, December 8, 1960.

[41]William Baxter, *Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove; or, Scenes and Incidents of the War in Arkansas*, (Cincinnati: Pie & Hitchcock, 1864), p. 21-22.

[42]*Arkansian*, January 25, 1861.

[43]Thomas, *Arkansas in War*, p. 56.

[44]*Arkansian*, July 7, 1860.

[45]Allsopp, *History of the Arkansas Press*, p. 463.

[46]*Democrat*, May 30, 1861.

[47]William Baxter, *Pea Ridge*, p. 34-40.

MORE LADIES OF GOSHEN

by Lloyd O. Warren

Near Mill Creek, a short distance above its confluence with Richland Creek and White River, the community of Goshen was established by settlers in the late 1820's. In the vicinity were good springs of water, good farmland, timber and an abundance of game. Just when the community was named "Goshen" and why, this writer has not been able to ascertain. The first U.S. postoffice for the community was known as College Grove, established in 1874. In 1876, the named was changed to Goshen with Moses Dutton, a member of a pioneer family, as postmaster.

In the late 1880's, William T. (Bill) Blake, having finished an apprenticeship in smithy work, came to Goshen and established a blacksmith shop. Here, he married Louisa Ellender (Lula) Gilliland, a descendant of Rial Williams, November 1, 1891. Of eight children born to Bill and Lula, five were daughters. Pearl, b. Aug. 15, 1892; twin daughters, Julia Dessie and Mary Bessie, b. June 3, 1894; Nona Eva, b. Dec. 9, 1898; and Lena Ada, b. Jan. 18, 1907.

The five sisters received their elementary education at the Goshen School. As they were able, they assisted in all phases of farm work helping eke out a subsistence livelihood on the family farm.

Following a short, unhappy marriage, Pearl returned to Goshen. World War I began soon after and there was a great need for nurses. She enrolled in the nursing school established by the Fayetteville City Hospital, and was among the first trainees to receive the RN degree from the school. She served in the U.S. Army during World War I, and as Washington County Health Nurse in 1928 and 1929. She also worked in Carroll and Madison Counties and served as superintendent of the hospital at Huntsville. One child, a son, was born to the couple. Pearl died in December, 1956.

Julia Dessie married James H. Warrren of Fayetteville, July 12, 1914. For the next 15 years, they engaged in farm-

L. to R. Louisa Elender "Lula" Gilliland Blake
Daughters: Pearl, Julia Dessie, Mary Bessie, Nona Eva and Lena Ada Blake.

ing in the Oakland-Zion community where their six children were born. Due to inadequate income from farming, the family moved to Los Angeles, CA where Dessie and Jim spent the rest of their lives. They died in an automobile accident in New Mexico, Nov. 1962, as they were returning home from a visit to Northwest Arkansas.

Mary Bessie never married. Her active life was spent as a nurse. She too, was among the early graduates of the Fayetteville City Hospital Nurses School. During her career she worked at various hospitals in Northwest Arkansas, Oklahoma, California and Washington. In the 1930's she was superintendent of the hospital at Hominy, Oklahoma. She finished her career as a special duty nurse, working at hospitals in Rogers, Springdale and Fayetteville. She died July 2, 1974.

Nona Eva married Elliott L. Warren, December 22, 1914. Elliott and James H., husband of Julia Dessie, were brothers and both were members of the Zion Band which frequently played at functions in nearby communities. thus is was that they became acquainted with the "Blake" sisters at Goshen. Nona and Elliott established their farm home in the Sons' Chapel area where they lived for 62 years. To them were born five children, one of which died in infancy. Nona died October 6, 1979.

Lena Ada was the only one of the sisters to attend Fayetteville High. She married Waymon Sparks, of the Dutch Mills area, May 29, 1925. To the union were born two sons. For a number of years Lena worked at the Washington Hotel, located at the southwest corner of the Fayetteville square. At the end of World War II Lena and sons moved to Los Angeles, CA where Lena worked for the Pacific Bell System until she retired. She died in early 1988.

Thus an end came to the story of the "Blake" sisters. All were loyal to the community of Goshen. While none spent their mature years in the community, all maintained strong emotional ties to Goshen.

LOST BLACKS Of Washington County 1891 - 1901

by Izola Preston, Ed.D.

According to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Report for 1891-1892, there were seven black teachers in Washington County for that biennium. The following table presents numbers of black teachers by sex for the period 1891 through 1901.[1]

Black Teachers in Washington County 1891-1901

Year	Male	Female	Total
1891	3	4	7
1892	5	2	7
1893	4	1	5
1894	4	3	7
1895	4	4	8
1896	5	3	8
1897	4	4	8
1898	1	3	4
1899	1	8	9
1900	2	6	8
1901	1	8	9

Reports of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Arkansas

As can be seen from these data, there have been as many as nine black teachers in Washington County during a particular school year, but there is evidence of only two black schools in the county. It is a probability that there were other black schools, but no one is alive presently who remembers where they were, much less any details.

Our best guess is that they were one-room schools, catering to as few as 15 children in communities which are no longer a part of the written history of the county.

The two main centers of black population in the county were Fayetteville and Cane Hill. Fayetteville's Henderson

School, perhaps the oldest black public school in the State, never had more than two teachers until it was upgraded to Lincoln School in 1936. Cane Hill, discontinued in 1946, never had more than one black teacher.

The county black population from 1860 until 1900 is listed[2]: 1860-1540; 1870-674; 1880-994; 1890-1010; 1900-888.

Between 1891 and 1901 there evidently was a consistent need for black labor in the county, as reflected by the employment of teachers. Laboring families produced the children who provided the justification for teachers.

The black community was not located centrally in the county, as it is today. Transportation was not developed so workers could live at a distance from their workplaces. They lived near so they could walk to work, or ride wagons hitched to mules or horses. As there was nowhere to stable their animals or space to graze them, the animal mode of transportation seemed unlikely.

It is more probable that each prosperous settlement of whites could have a small community of blacks nearby.[3] Around the turn of the century, transportation was revolutionized with the availability of automobiles. Although blacks did not profit from this immediately, it did change their relationship to employers.

Evidently Washington County was favorable to black growth from 1870 until 1890. They were being used as regular and migratory labor. As migrants, they went wherever they could find work, remaining as long as livings could be made. If work kept them in a locale for several years, a school might spring up to serve their children. It would disappear when the adults moved on to better opportunities.

Black migrant children could expect little formal education in the 1890's for legislation did not so provide until the mid-1960's. Private subscription schools were relatively common in Arkansas until well into the 1900's. But former slaves had little money for this purpose and,

unless an individual or a congregation established a school for them there was little or no schooling. Here are figures for blacks in public school, Washington Co. - 1981-1900.[4]

Year	Male	Female	Total	Yearly% Change
1891	127	141	268	
1892	109	136	249	-9
1893	73	117	190	-22
1894	122	144	266	+40
1895	100	120	220	-17
1896	119	125	244	+11
1897	117	138	255	+5
1898	85	99	184	-28
1899	123	123	246	+34
1900	87	92	179	-27

Please note the largest change in enrollment, a 76 student gain, or a 40% increase over the previous year occurred in the year from 1893 to 1894. From where did these students come? An increase of this size would require about 380 adults, perhaps more, since not all eligible students were usually enrolled.

Several theories explain the appearance, then disappearance, of two or three black one-room schools in Washington County from 1891-1895.

Racism and Violence: Blacks unable or unwilling to cope with group or personal mistreatment would move on. If there was a precipitating incident, such as the riot in 1898 which drove blacks from Boone County,[5] no evidence of such an event has been uncovered. Moreover, if two or three hundred blacks fled the county almost overnight, the remainder of those in Fayetteville would have left at their earliest opportunity.

Industry: If a big industry, such as a sawmill, started up using black labor, where was it located? It is doubtful that a single large industry, or even several smaller ones, would have required the labor of two or three hundred adults. Then, too, if that many blacks left at once, a labor void

would have been created in the community. Creditors would have lost thousands of dollars, for blacks often bought on credit or paid for their provisions in barter. Leaving would surely have been discouraged until debts were paid.

A good bet is that a black community existed in Springdale which changed its name from Shiloh 1878. The labor needs of Springdale were about the same as Fayetteville's, the two communities being roughly the same age and their development similar. Therefore Springdale should have been able to support a black population about the same size as in Fayetteville.

Migration: In the 1890s land was still available in Indian Territory. Much of Eastern Oklahoma was settled widely by blacks. Taft, Boley, and Langston were some of the black towns of Oklahoma. Muskogee, Ada, Idabel, Guthrie, and others had sizable pockets of blacks. But migration out of Washington Co. would not, most likely, have taken place *en masse.*

Blotting out of Blacks: Many "gray towns" (all white towns) have gone to great lengths to erase evidence of blacks having ever lived in their vicinity. This discouraged others from settling there. In a few generations the blacks will be removed from the books and records, hence, will no longer be a part of local history.[6]

In the case of Washington County, 1893-1895, several teachers, several schools and perhaps as many as 380 black people are unaccounted for. What happened to these people when their movements and whereabouts should have been known and noted?

NOTES

[1]*Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Arkansas for the Year 1893 and 1894.*, Morrilton, Arkansas: Pilot Publishing Company, 1894, p. 300.

[2]U.S. Census Reports.

[3]Campbell, William S., *One Hundred Years of Fayetteville: 1828-1928. The Journal of Marian Tebbetts Banes.*, Fayetteville, Arkansas: Washington County Historical Society, 1977. p. 75.

[4]Biennial reports of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Arkansas for various years, various publishers.

[5]Ralph Rea, *Boone County and its People.*, Van Buren, Arkansas: Press-Argus, 1955.

[6]Campbell, *Op. cit.*, p. 76.

AHNENTAFEL CHARTS

As promised in the November 1988 FLASHBACK, we are continuing the publication of at least one "Ahnentafel" chart with each issue. We hope this additional feature will prompt you enthusiasts to get other genealogists and friends to join our Society.

On our charts, the submitter is No. 1. Double the number to find the father, No. 2. Add one to the father's number and this will be the mother, No. 3. Continue to do this for each generation.

Compiled by Mrs. Yetive D. Ramsey, 501 San Jacinto, LaPorte, TX 77571

1. Sidney Yetive Denton m Joseph Richard Gilbreath Ramsey, s/o Carl Allan Ramsey
2. Tilford Denton b 1886, AR; d 1973 TX; m 1908, Boone Co., AR.
3. Cora Sydney Farris b 1886, AR; d 1978, TX
4. Wm French Denton b 1849 AR; d 1887, AR; m 21 July 1873, AR.
5. Miller A. Payne b ca 1859, AR; d 1928, TX
6. Wm Henry Farris b 1845, TN; d 1924, KS; m 1867, IN (Federal Soldier)
7. Sarah Redden b 1850, TN; d 1921 TX
8. Col. Tilford Denton b 1817, TN; d 1896, AR; m 1848, AR Confederate Soldier
9. Mary Sneed b 1830, AR; d 1907, AR
10. James J. Payne b ca 1835; d 1861-8, AR; m 1858, AR
11. Dorcas Sophia McCracken b 1843, AR; d 1915, AR
12. Edward Farris b 1825, TN; d 1876, IL
13. Elizabeth Ball b 1824, TN; d 1858, IL
14. Charles Smith Redden b 1823, TN; d 1906, OK; m 1848
15. Martha Davis b 1829, TN; d 1910, IL
16. John Denton b NC d ca 1832, Washington Co., AR
17. Jane French b SC; d ca 1832, Washington Co., AR.
18. Charles Sneed b 1801, KY; d 1865, AR; m 1824, AR

19. Jane Coker b 1806-8, TN; d 1878, AR
20. Wm Payne b ca 1810, TN; d AR
21. Eliza _____ b ca 1813, TN; d AR
22. John McCracken b 1811, TN; d 1855, AR; m (2) 1842
23. Mary B. Kenner Henderson b 1811, TN (was NC); d 1888, AR
24. Manuel Elisha Farris b VA
25. Elizabeth Jones b 1805, NC; d 1896, IL
26. Amos Ball?
28. James Redden d before 1850, TN
29. Mildred Murrie b 1800, NC; d after 1850, TN
30. Lewis Davis, Methodist Minister b 1804, NC; d after 1860, TN
31. Margaret Hastings b ca 1808, NC; d after 1860 TN
36. Wm Sneed b ca 1773, KY; d before 1850 census, AR; m 1789, KY
37. Keziah Graham b ca 1775-7, KY; d after 1850 census, AR
38. Wm "Buck" Coker b 1769, VA; d 1855, AR; m 1810, TN
44. Robert McCracken b 1783, PA; d 1855, AR; m 1810, TN
45. Nancy McClure b 1792, VA; d after 1860, AR
46. C. Eskridge Kenner b 1779, Tn; d 1858, AR; m ca 1800, TN
47. Dorcas Burum b 1778, Va; d 1857, AR
62. Henry Hastings b 1784, NC; d 1859, TN
63. Martha McDaniel b 1787, NC; d 1864, TN

Compiled by Frieda Faye TAYLOR BARLOW, 8525 Rockledge Road, LaMesa, CA 92041

1. Frieda Faye TAYLOR, b 4 Oct 1908, Roswell, NM; m 5 Feb 1930 to John Nathaniel BARLOW.
2. James Heber TAYLOR, b 14 July 1875, Cuero, Dewitt Co., TX; m 14 Mar 1905, Roswell, NM; d 9 July 1942, Tulare, Tulare Co., CA
3. Ada Myrtle BOLDDON, b 13 July 1887, Kerrville, Kerr Co., TX; d 23 Mar 1935, Tulare, Tulare Co., CA.
4. Henry TAYLOR, b 4 Mar 1854, Miss; m 10 Feb 1873; d 13 May 1883, TX

5. Susiana Rebecca CUDD, b 1840, Miss; d 1893?, TX.
6. John Willian BOLDDON, m 19 July 1885
7. Mary Ellen READ, b 7 Jan 1872, Belton Bell, TX; d 5 Nov 1955, Phoenix, Maricopa Co, AZ
8. James J. TAYLOR b 1823, GA
9. Martha J. IVEY, b 1825, Miss
10. Fredick, F. CUDD, b 1813, SC
11. Sarah _____, b 1817, Miss.
14. Milton READ, b 30 May 1843, Fayetteville, Washington Co., AR; m 4 June 1870; d 9 Feb 1911, Mesa, Maricopa Co, AZ
15. Margaret Catherine SUTTON, b 12 Dec 1853, AR; d 14 Mar 1912, Mesa, Maricopa Co., AZ.
28. Wm Riley READ
29. Elizabeth PHELAN
30. Phillip David SUTTON, b 1823, IL; m 20 Jan 1853; d 19 Aug 1873
31. Tennessee SUTPHIN
60. Jeremiah SUTTON b 9 Oct 1803, OH
61. Margaret PHELAN, b 15 Oct 1805, OH; d 26 Feb 1874

✱ Our Genealogical Project ✱

First I wish to thank each and everyone of you who returned the pedigree chart sent out with the August issue of FLASHBACK. And for all the lovely notes and letters that accompanied them! I do appreciate your thoughtfulness and promptness in reply. Charts are still coming in and we are amassing a great amount of material. Those of you who have not submitted a pedigree chart, please feel free to do so. If you have mislaid or need a form, let our office know and we will supply one for you.

This family group sheet is the next stage in our collection of genealogical material on Washington County residents — present or past. Please feel free to make as many copies of this form as you wish to submit. One for yourself, one for your parents, grandparents, etc. Please remember to always use the maiden name for the women and all surnames capitalized. List the children in the sequence they were born — oldest to youngest.

Even if you do not have all the names, dates, and places, send what you know along to us. We are grateful for each and every shred of information that you might share

Again, when you have completed your family group sheets, send them to: Lois Miller, Corresponding Secretary, Washington County Historical Society, 118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701. Thank you!!

In our files with no name attached: Will of Shadrack EARLY of Bertie Co., NC. from Will Book E page 53. We will be happy to send this Will to any of this man's descendants.

Will the person who sent the computerized information on the ESSEX, EVANS, and CHASTAIN families please contact me at this office? Your name and address has been separated from this important information. Lois Miller.

QUERIES

Virginia WAKEFIELD HAYES, Box 624, Minco, Oklahoma 73059 requests information about the TILLEY children listed in 1860 Washington County, Arkansas census, with Susan and DeKalb HOLT. Was their father Rubein TILLEY, listed in the 1850 census with wife Susan, one son, John? Was Susan STOUT HOLT their mother? Court records show DeKalb HOLT given Guardianship, in 1854, over Jacob, Edmond and John TILLEY. Edmond married Elizabeth Jane GUTHERY in 1872, Washington Co., Ark. Would like any information on this line.

Virginia WAKEFIELD HAYES, Box 624, Minco, Oklahoma 73059 requests information of a Jennie GLENN, who owned 40 acres in area of Sugar Hill School Property, in 1907. Her name only on deed. Was her hus-

band, Joe or James GLENN deceased? What was Jennie's death date? And where buried? She is believed to be the youngest daughter of Rev. J.F. and Susan DOBBS.

Lorain Beeler Axup, 33865 Plowshare Road, Lake Elsinore, CA 92330 is attempting to locate descendants of the following: Children of Lawn Kit WEIR; James Larkin Monroe Weir, b. 1848 and married to Mary Harrison DICKSON in 1873, Benton County, AR; Telitha E. Catherine Weir known as Kittie, b. 1855 and married to Charley GIBSON in Washington County, AR; Florence Dica Weir, b. 1857 and married to Andrew C. L. Walker in Hot Springs, AR.

Lorain Beeler Axup, 33865 Plowshare Road, Elsinore, CA 92330 would like to exchange information on the following: Lawson Young WEIR and family who went to Washington County, AR following the Civil War. His brother, Oliver Gaines Weir (1832-1905). Lawson's son, Mathias Gaines Weir and wife, Martha Adaline POLLOCK remained in Elm Springs, AR when Lawson returned to Missouri. The family of Oliver G. Weir and Elizabeth Ann SADLER were: James Weir, m. Tennessee BARNETT: Rufus E. Weir; Luella, m. Newton McDOWELL; Emma, m. Jeff JEWITT: John Ritchard Weir; Edwin Sadler, m. Ada HARDIN: Lee Allan, m. Nellie RIDER.

Shirley Arnold, R.R. 3, Cole Camp, MO 65325, needs help with her LEWALLEN and RAINWATER families. John Lewallen, b. 1811, eastern TN, m. ? Rainwater. Children were: Moses, b. 1834; James, b. 1835; William b. 1838; John, b. 1841; Henry, b. 1843; Jacob, b. 1845. Does anyone know John Lewallen's wife's first name? She died shortly after Jacob was born. John then married Mariann ATKINSON in Washington County, AR, May 7, 1847. Thank you!

Marilyn Larner Hicks, 3621 Duchess Trail, Dallas, TX 75229 (214/352-7929) is preparing to publish a book about the life and times of Peter VAN WINKLE (1814-1882) who was an influential pioneer in Washington and Benton

Counties before and after the Civil War. Is looking for several STRINGFIELDS (Mollie Stringfield BURKE (maybe Frank HERRING and Billie Burke), Alice Stringfield KSIDRT, W.T. & Lurlis Stringfield BLACKBURN, Peter & M.L. Carr Stringfield, James Berry Stringfield. Also descendants of Martin KIDDER and Ann Van Winkle WALKER (HALLS, KIMMONS and TILLMAN [John N. & Tempy Walker Tillman], as well as Sheltons). Also Lon Van Winkle's family, including Thelma MORRIS and Corrine Van Winkle.

Mrs. Doris Flesher, 1812 Donna Street, Arlington, TX 76013 is seeking information on any of the following: Thomas L. LEACH, b. Oct. 1789 in NC, d. Aug. 1881 in Benton County, AR, m. Ruth RENSHAW: Richard L. Leach, b. ca 1815 in NC, d. ca 1889/90 in Washington County, AR, m. Eliza HEWITT (who were her parents?); Nathan W. Leach, b. 4 November 1838, d. 13 April, 1887 in Crawford County, AR, m. Nancy BREEDLOVE: Ephraim A. GARRISON, b. ca 1835/6 in DeKalb County, TN, d. after 1880 in Washington County, AR, m. Elizabeth Frances WINFREY (who after Ephraim's death married John B. BIRDWELL), children: Lucy J. Garrison, m. John Thomas SNOODY; John James Garrison; Alice Louise Leach; William Thompson Garrison, b. ca 1867; Louisa Minerva, m. William Riley STOVER: Robert Lee Garrison, m. Fannie A. ?, b. Farmington Cemetery, Washington County, AR; Edward Monroe Garrison, m. Maude COX: Ranson F. Garrison, b. ca 1877; and Mollie Garrison, b. after 1880. Thank you!

* NEW PUBLICATION *

The Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, has recently published *Manuscript Resources for Women's Studies*. Compiled by Andrea Cantrell, Special Collections librarian, the guide describes over 140 collections preserved by the Special Collections Department which pertain primarily to Arkansas women.

Of special note of individuals interested in the history of women in Fayetteville, Springdale, and Washington County are the records of the American Association of University Women — Fayetteville branch, the Amanda Malvina Fitzallen McClellan Braly Papers, the Mary Byroade Papers, the papers of Maude Coffin and her daughter Fairy Coffin Lynd, the Gertrude Fallin Cook Papers, the papers of architect Belle A. Dinwiddie, records of the Fayetteville and Professional Women's Club, Fayetteville Council of Garden Clubs, Fayetteville Garden Club, Fayetteville Outlook Club, and Fayetteville Perennial Garden Club, papers of the Futrall, Lighton and McIlroy families, records of the Modern Literature Club of Fayetteville, papers of botanist Dwight Moore, the papers of Prairie Grove Telephone Company Vice President Myrtle McCormick Parks, the Zillah Cross Peel Papers, records of the Political Equality League of Fayetteville, the Delia Wagner Price Papers, papers of Ida Pace Purdue, the Sara Jane Smith papers, papers of Glaphyra Stafford, Walker family papers, and records of the Washington County Extension Homemakers Council.

The department's holdings include materials from every region of Arkansas. They include diaries, correspondence, scrapbooks, and family and business papers of individual women, as well as records of Arkansas women's organizations such as women's clubs, garden clubs, literary societies, sororities, and professional organizations. The Special Collections department is currently making a concerted effort to preserve documents pertaining to women in Arkansas. Please contact the department if you have old letters, scrapbooks, family papers, business records, or club records which you would like to place in an environment where they will be preserved with other important sources for research.

The guide is available for $5.00. To obtain a copy or more information, contact Michael J. Dabrishus, head of Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, AR 72701, 501/575-5577.

CANE HILL
Washington Co., Arkansas

From THE MEMPHIS (TN) DAILY APPEAL, April 10, 1859

This was supplied by Robert Myers who is presently working on the Newspaper Project at the University of Arkansas. We thank him for his interests.

There are many beautiful places in the State of Arkansas — many rich, rolling prairies, chequered off into fertile fields, and dotted here and there with the houses and barns of an enterprising and intelligent population.

The northwestern part of the State abounds in picturesque scenery. The Ozark mountains extend through that section, and divide the cotton region from that in which small grain and Indian corn form the staple productions. Traveling north from Van Buren, on the Arkansas River, a spur of this mountain range must be crossed. This spur is called the Boston mountain, and separates Washington from Crawford county.

Washington county lies north of Boston mountain, having the Cherokee nation immediately on the west. The land is generally fertile and no inconsiderable portion of the county is prairie. In this county there is a remarkable hill, bearing the name which stands at the head of this article. It rises amid a prairie, being about six miles long and from three to four in width. Its greatest hight (sic) is one hundred and fifty feet; in some places the ascent is gradual and easy, in others it is rugged and precipitous. The summit is almost level, and the soil is black, and equal in fertility to the celebrated American bottom in Illinois, or the valley of the Nile itself. The growth of timber, on this remarkable hill, is similar to that found in the creek and river bottoms of that vicinity; it is black and white walnut, sassafras, ash, oak, sweet gum, and the largest mulberry trees I have ever seen in any country.

Cane Hill is remarkable for its abundance of clear and beautiful spring water. There are hundreds of springs in and about it. Never did more delicious water burst forth from the bosom of our common mother than these clear,

cold springs of Cane Hill. The longest droughts, and the most powerful freshets seem to have no influence either upon the quantity or quality of the water.

Near the center of Cane Hill several springs arise from a gentle eminence, and flow away to different directions in bold streams, which soon unite with others and become considerable, affording never failing water power for machinery at the places of their descent. Several valuable flour mills and one or two cotton factories have been erected there, within the last year or two, and are doing well. At the point where these springs arise are the remains of an ancient fort. A portion of the stone wall still exists, but the greater part has long since been demolished. When I first visied that locality, which was in 1832, two squares of wall were standing. The work was of rough, but substantial masonry, and about a half acre, including several springs, was inclosed. Much labor had been bestowed upon the springs. Huge stone basins, curiously carved, and of various shapes and dimensions, were found there, and in the vicinity, by the early settlers.

Daniel Boone, the great pioneer, accompanied by the late Governor Baggs of Missouri, were the first white men who climbed that hill. They sighted it in 1804, or 1805, and gave it to the name of the "Black Hill". The Indians then residing there told them that, as far back as their traditions reached, the fort had been there, and they had no definite idea by whom or when it had been built. An oak at least four feet in diameter, standing on a part of the dilapidated wall, and evidently planted since the erection of the wall, bears indisputable evidence of the lapse of several centuries.

It is said that the wild Indians, scattered over the wide West, for ages prior to the coming of the pale face to take away their hunting grounds, were in the habit of holding a yearly council within the ruins of that fort. They resorted thither to smoke the pipe of peace, and to hold consultations relative to their general good. They regarded the old fort as a consecrated place, and thought that they

heard the Great Spirit speaking to them, as the winds moaned among the boughs of the mighty trees, or the thunder echoed back its startling peals from the neighboring mountains.

In vain do we ask, Who built that fort? What people lived there? When did they flourish? By what means did they become extinct? There is no voice to respond — no record to gratify curiosity — no history to clear away the obscurity that hangs over the whole subject. Certain it is, however, that some people, far more advanced toward civilization than the red man, once had their home here — these crystal waters once reflected back their images and slaked their thirst, the smoke from these altars once arose amid these groves, and their songs made response to the prowl of the wild wolf. Here, at these springs, councils met and debated grave questions, involving the fate of tribes and nations, and decided whether war or peace should prevail. Here, once lived a race that, like ours, and all others of the varied family of man, were sometimes oppressed with fear, as others, transported with joy; sometimes mourned in adversity, at others rejoiced in prosperity. But they are all gone!

The scene is now changed. The Anglo-Saxon is there, transforming everything by his wondrous touch into images of art and science. Agriculture and commerce now hold undisputed sway, and peace crowns the sylvan shade.

SPRING TIME IN THE OZARKS

by Fay Gilstrap Ratcliff

Spring time in the Ozarks is something to behold. Trees are budding, wild flowers are blooming and birds are nesting. Spring is popping out all over.

There is another type of spring in the Ozarks. Webster explains it as "Being an issue of water from the earth, taking the form on the surface as a stream or body of water".

On the Jesse Gilstrap farm in north-west Arkansas there is such a spring. It flows from a cave-like opening in a

limestone ledge. The water is ice cold, marvelously clear and the taste is perfect.

This spring and many others like it are the only source of water for household purposes, live stock and their waters are used as a cooling agent to keep dairy produce from spoiling. Some people built spring houses, but we had a box built of wire mesh on ends and sides allowing water to circulate around containers of milk and butter. The lid was made of wood with a lock to keep curious persons from sharing its contents.

An example of the value of a spring was illustrated in 1908 by Springdale, Arkansas. The city decided to construct a water works plant. The town owned property on which is situated a large spring of the finest water in the world. It was decided to locate the water works plant here. This dream became a reality of April 1, 1908.

Any one 65 or older remembers that Monday was wash day. That's when the spring came into active duty. Early Monday morning Fannie Gilstrap organized her water brigade of four grandchildren who lived with her, Mae-12, Fay-10, Jack-8, and Carl-6. The girls carried lard buckets that held two gallons each and the boys two each with a four quart capacity. The wire bails cut into the hands of the carriers which caused a great deal of grumbling, plus questions as to why Grandma used so much wash water. The spring was down hill from the house and climbing the hill with two buckets of water was tiresome. Grandma's efficiently planned laundry consisted of a bench made of heavy timbers to accommodate three tubs and a starch pan. Her clothes lines were things of beauty with everything evenly hung!

Many towns and villages came into being around a spring. The names of these towns in the Ozarks are legion. Some have become cities. The curative power of the water from a few springs is known world wide.

Fay Gilstrap Ratcliff, Grand-daughter of Jesse and Fannie Gilstrap

ALONG THE ROAD OF LIFE

by William Robert Phelan

This story continues from the May 1989 FLASHBACK.

Of the mountain passes I have crossed, Fall River Pass would have to be number one in my book. The road leading from Estes Park, CO., over the mountain to the west, goes over that pass. It crosses at an altitude of nearly 12,000 feet; far above the timber line. In summer, it is covered with short grass and tiny flowers with big banks of snow. Flowers bloom within a few inches of the snow. A drive thru there is one you will never forget. I have been over it four different times!

The one place that tops them all is Yellowstone National Park. It is immense and has such variety. You can watch bear, elk and buffalo; catch trout in Yellowstone Lake from a fishing bridge or a boat; there are two beautiful rivers, Firehole and Yellowstone River; you can stand on the canyon rim to set eyes on the Upper and Lower Falls of the Yellowstone; you can tour many miles through the park. Everywhere there is excitement. Springs of hot water, big pools boiling, huge pots of broiling mud with jets of steam rising from holes in the rock. And the geysers! They throw a mixture of steam and piping hot water high into the air. You know the eternal fires can not be very far below! Yellowstone is one place everyone should witness. Words can not describe it!

The fall of '38 found us making hay in the valley near Rabbit Ears Pass. In Denver, I had traded our Chevrolet Coupe for a 1931 Model A Ford. She was a four cylinder, four door sedan. Slick as a button; not a scratch. She surely gave long and faithful service.

About that part of Colorado; it is beautiful country with valleys smooth and rich. A real hay and cattle country.

The mountain slopes are steep, rugged, and covered with bountiful pine forests. In fact, much of it is National Forest. In winter, the snow piled up seven feet deep. In the valleys, it would melt about May. In the mountains snow lasted to July. Rabbit Ears is a queer name for a mountain pass. Let me explain. It's where Highway U.S. 40 crosses the Continental Divide, between Kremmling and Steamboat Springs. The pass is higher than 9,500 feet. Not far from the pass two peaks jut sharply up. They are tall, sharp, and close together. All alone, they look very much like the ears of a jack rabbit; visible for miles.

I don't know how high they are. I do know one Sunday afternoon while working at the Mallon Ranch, Leroy and I decided to climb them. As the crow flies, they were two miles away. After we left the valley, it was mighty steep going, but we did it! One peak was rather flat on top with rocks we managed to pry loose, pushed 'em to the edge and rolled 'em over. Last we saw, they were headed down a canyon. They must have gone clear to China.

About then we got acquainted with Mr. & Mrs. Joe Goff. They owned and operated the Columbine Lodge, a huge building made of pine logs. The north half of which was a grocery store with soft drinks. Its other half was a kitchen and dining room. There were six cabins scattered around in the pines. All their fuel was wood; always had a big pile of logs ready to be cut into stovewood. They offered us jobs and of course, we accepted. Before we left for the corn fields of Iowa, we cut them another pile of wood. This led to the most pleasant, interesting job I ever had. They wanted me to come early the next spring and to work through the summer and fall.

In April of '39, Leroy and I headed west. Mr. Goff was sure Leroy could get a job on a ranch which he did. The Lodge was on the east side of the pass, about half-way between its top and the valley, inside the National Forest. U.S. 40 was kept open by snow-plows, but the lodge area

was covered by about five feet of snow. The first job was to clear the snow. Through the winter all the ashes from the stoves were saved, several tubs fulls. We scattered those ashes lightly on top of the snow. They absorbed the warmth of the sun, instead of reflecting it. Slowly, but surely, the snow melted.

I never can remember the date when the place was ready for business. I do recall by opening time that outside our work area snow was still three feet deep. The Goffs had spent the winter in the largest cabin, a big three-room deal a few feet from the highway. Now they moved into a couple of rooms beside the Lodge.

My main job was to care for the cabins, and to rent them. After that, I helped with just about everything. They had two gasoline pumps, so I sold gasoline and worked behind the store's counter. When we had a lot of people to feed I was a waiter. Mrs. Goff was the cook, and very good. There were two girls for help in the kitchen and to wait tables. If they couldn't keep up, I lent a hand.

I was always first up come morning. We did not feed many early in the day. Those few were usually truck drivers. I would cook and serve them breakfast.

I was on the go constantly but I never grew tired of the job; new people to see, a variety of things to do. Once a man spent the night with us who was riding a bull from Los Angeles to New York City. Another night, we hosted a group of traveling musicians. I believe they were The Ranch Boys. After supper they put on a free show. I just missed seeing the most popular person in the country. She was the famous child star, SHIRLEY TEMPLE. For those too young to remember, she was America's Darling and is now Mrs. Shirley Temple Black. She and her parents were driving east, and spent the night in Steamboat Springs. We knew they had to drive by, and hoped they would stop for gasoline, coffee, or something, but they didn't.

Allow me to skip over quite a few years. Today is September 16, 1978. I am seventy years this day. I had better make the best of it for I'm certain I won't make the next seventy. Although I don't go as fast as I once did, I'm still on the road. Those roads have led to many places. The longest single stretch took me over 39 months. Some of those roads were rough, others were so far under water I had to go by ship. The one that led to Australia, New Guinea, the islands of Morotai, and Soem Soem was like that. In places the water was very deep, but I made it back to Fayetteville.

I married Stacey Gabbard in 1943. We have one son, David, born October 5, 1954. On July 2, 1976 he and Virginia Ann Robbins married. They plan to go out to dinner with us tonight. Her parents, Sherman and Moselle Robbins, will come too. Other than that, it will be a slow day for me.

One year ago today, we had a party and picnic dinner at Walker Park in Fayetteville. A whole heap of relatives and friends were present. A good time was had by all. A very special guest was Ardys Crapo of Logan, Utah. She is a cousin I had seen once. In 1974, I went out to Utah to spend ten days with her and husband, Leonard. Sure did have a wonderful time meeting other cousins never seen before, seeing quite a bit of Northern Utah, hoping to make it back someday.

Next week there's another treat coming, Dale and Margaret Phelan of Seattle, WA. are due. They are great fishermen and have promised to bring some salmon. Margaret promised to try for some buffalo as they cross the plains, wouldn't that be something; buffalo steak and salmon? Yum-m-m! It's their first trip to Arkansas. His grandparents, John Wesley Phelan and Prudence Skelton, came from the Hazel Valley area. The West Coast fishing sounds so fabulous, they may find a stow-a-way in their camper when they arrive home.

We did go out for dinner last night. It was a disaster! We drove to a newly opened restaurant over 25 miles away. Without a doubt, it was the worst meal I ever tried to eat; even worse than old Army "C" Ration. It cost six dollars per. Sometimes you can't win!

Just called Logan, Utah to talk with Leonard and Ardys, also with Dale and Margaret, who just reached Utah this Sunday morning.

The following Wednesday night about nine o-clock they pulled in here; spent five days with us; now they're gone; sure enjoyed every visiting minute; on the hop most of the time. It took all of one day to visit Hazel Valley, Sunset Cemetery, the top of Boston Mountain and Devil's Den State Park. We had a nice lunch at Burns Gables on top of the Mount Gayler. Oh yes, Margaret failed to bring buffalo, but they sure brought delicious salmon.

I now turn the dial on my old time machine back to 1939. It is summertime: I am still at Columbine Lodge. During the summer, it was nearly perfect, a most enjoyable job! All too soon fall rolled around. The tourist season ended. Time to go to the cornfields of Iowa. (It would be 27 years before I returned. In that time, the main building burned down and was rebuilt altogether differently.

In the 30's nearly all corn was picked by hand. Without a doubt cornhusking is the hardest work ever. It puts a terrific strain on the hands and arms. Let me tell you!

The night before you put your horses in their stall; feed them well; place some fresh, clean straw around them. Next morning, long before daylight, you are back with them. Clean out the straw, plus their mess, then you feed them again. Now go over them with a curry-comb and brush from one end to the other.

Then on with their harness. Now grab your breakfast, while they eat theirs. Next hitch them to a wagon, take off

for the field to be at the right spot when it is light enough to find an ear of corn. Your wagon is a standard size box with side boards. On the opposite side from you as you pick, the sideboard is built up. Called a bang board, it stands about four feet higher than the rest of the wagon's box. As you toss an ear, it will strike the bang board and drop into the wagon.

The horses are well trained and know what to do. Aim them down the row you wish to work; they keep pace. Put on your gloves and grasp the steel husking hook in your right hand. Walk between two rows picking from both as you walk. Reach the left hand near the top of an ear; bring the right hand across the center of the ear, the steel hook will tear the husk from one side; squeeze with the left hand pulling the husk downward; with the right hand snap out the ear over the left hand; toss the ear into the wagon. There is a time and a rhythm to it: step, grasp, rake, squeeze, snap and throw. As an average picker, I picked about 90 bushels a day. Some guys could go 115 a day. The pay was three cents per bushel. After I quit work, my hands and arms would swell, get real sore. The only way I could sleep was to hang them down over the edge of my bed. By morning most of the swelling was gone, then with a few minutes of work, the soreness left. Usually thirty or forty days would finish a harvest. I wonder how many guys would pick even one wagon load of corn today!?

With the corn all picked, we'd head south for Arkansas. Although I didn't know it, 1939 was to be my last year on the road from job to job wherever jobs could be found.

Soon after I reached home, a guy from whom I had bought gasoline a few times, offered to sell me a one-half interest in his small service station. It seemed like a good deal so I gave it a whirl. I knew nothing about operating a station, but felt I could learn. It was a very tiny place with an office and a storage spot. All work had to be done outdoors.

Our profit margin matched the station, very little. Gasoline retailing at 14 cents per gallon equalled three cents profit. Profit on a quart of oil was five cents. But, it seemed better than driving all over looking for work. So, I borrowed and bought. I liked the work, as well as the people I was meeting. It was a Service Station for sure, not the help-your-self-service of today.

I learned fast. In no time I was doing my share of the work. Another thing I learned very soon was that my partner was stealing most of the profits. He was keeping the books and handling the money. I was green, but I knew we were doing enough work so there should be more money. He was sharp, knew all the tricks. It took me some time to come up with the proof. When I had it, I told him what I knew; told him we were finished as a team; he could either buy or sell to me. His decision put me on my own.

For the next thirty years, except for the 39 months I served in the Army, I put in full time at the Stations. I operated four different locations. At each new spot the Station was bigger and better than the one before. My last one was near the University. It was large with an office, storage space, a lube room, a wash area and a space for car repair. Four of us operated it. I stayed there for 13 years and 13 days. I started with Conoco, but for 20 years, sold Mobil Oil products.

In September of 1942, I was drafted. I had to sell everything wholesale! Just walk away! About 39 months later I returned, bought out another guy, started all over.

A few years ago I wrote about my life in the Army. Just tack it onto the end of this story. Many things have happened since I was discharged on Christmas Day, 1945. I will skip nearly all of it.

The highlight of the years has to be the birth of our one and only child. David Allen Phelan born October 5, 1954.

He is an excellent guy; never been in trouble; doesn't smoke or drink; does not lie, cheat or steal. He likes to work, has a good job, is well, happy, and married. What more can a parent ask?

My road of life has been a long one and as a whole, it's been good, I have few regrets. Every few years I would shake loose from the Station for a two-week vacation. We'd just hop in the car, take off!

We never did care for cities. The mountain, the plains, the seashore and our National Parks were what we wished to see. With only two weeks off, we didn't spend much time in one place; kept moving to see all we could.

In July of 1966, Stacey, David and myself left for the far West. Back to Columbine Lodge for overnight, on to Yellowstone, the Black Hills then to Portland, OR. We spent a night with Lois Arnold Webb and her husband, Virgil. Lois and I had been schoolmates. From Portland, we went to the coast, turned south, down through Big Redwood Country, on to Yosemite National Park. Spent a day there, next it was a one-half day at Disneyland, then the Grand Canyon. We spent time looking around the South Rim. We had been to the North Rim, several years before. Then home.

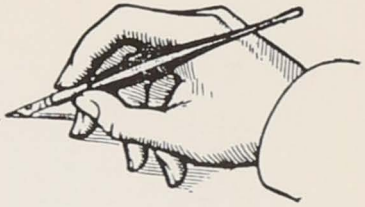
Another highlight January of '69 was a trip to Miami, FL. to watch a Super Bowl game. The summer of '68 Mobil Oil Co. put on a sales contest among several dealers. I won first prize, an all expense paid trip for two to the Orange Bowl. Although David was in school, we took him with us. He missed one day of school, even the Principal would not give permission for his absence, I'm sure it was worth more than one day of school. We left on Saturday morning and came back Monday night. Sunday afternoon, we watched the N.Y. Jets defeat the Baltimore Colts. Remember Joe Namath? What a thriller!

I think I'll call it a day, close up shop. If your road comes

near Fayetteville, stop to see me. *Bye now. With best wishes, William Robert (Bob) Phelan*

This is a picture of four generations made about 1897. Back row, Margaret Phelan, her daughter Sarah Frances Phelan Vines, and Richard Phelan, brother of Margaret. Little girl is Bertha Vines. Seated is Gr-Grandmother Frances Phelan widow of Jeremiah Phelan. She was born in 1813. Died March 30, 1903. Buried in Sunset Cemetery.

Our Readers Write



As is my usual habit, I read through *Flashback* (Feb. '89) right after the mailman delivered it today. I found the article by Mrs. Poorman about her father, Hobart Dutton, especially interesting.

I suggest the photograph on page 19 was probably made in 1903, likely soon after the Frisco purchased the O&CC. Note the Frisco "coonskin" on the smokebox door and the name below the cab window. However the locomotive at the right of the picture looks very much like O&CC No. 1, shown on page 24. Incidentally, locomotive No. 2275 was built by Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia, in 1886 for the Oklahoma City & Western Railroad as its No. 2. This line was operated by the Frisco until it was purchased outright in 1903 (Stagner, L. E., *Steam Locomotives of the Frisco Line*, 1976).

I understand many, if not most, people in western Washington County refer to the O&CC as Osage & Cherokee Central. However a Historical Development Map, published by the Frisco, calls it Ozark & Cherokee Central, which I take to be correct.

I really enjoy *Flashback*. Keep up the good work.

Robert C. Oswald
National Railway Historical Society
Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter

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